

**Instructions for sending this letter:**

Copy from below and personalize the **highlighted** fields.

**Then fax/mail the completed original letter to the following addressee/ number (as indicated in the template):**

The Honorable Richard S. Gordon (916) 319-2124

**With a copy to the following addressees/numbers (as indicated in the template):**

Senate Human Services Committee (via fax only):

Senator Mike McGuire (Chair) (916) 651-4902

Senator Tom Berryhill (Vice Chair) (916) 651-4908

Senator Loni Hancock (916) 651-4909

Senator Carol Liu (916) 651-4925

Senator Janet Nguyen (916) 651-4934

Mareva Brown (Chief Consultant) (via fax only) (916) 266-9350

**And a copy to your own State Senator and Assemblymember (where highlighted in the template):**

(Search here to find if you don't know already: <http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>)

FYI: Ben Allen's Sacramento Fax # is (916) 651-4926

**And E-mail a copy to the following addresses:**

Alexis Fernández: [alexis@cfpa.net](mailto:alexis@cfpa.net)

**Remove these instructions prior to printing/faxing.**

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VIA U.S. MAIL AND FAX

**[DATE]**

The Honorable Richard S. Gordon  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0024

Fax: (916) 319-2124

**Re: Support for AB 608**

Dear Assemblymember Gordon,

I am writing in support of AB 608, legislation that would better inform households applying for CalFresh about other nutritional programs for which they might be eligible, so that no child goes hungry.

Research studies have identified multiple negative effects of child hunger. Children who experience hunger are more likely to incur developmental impairments that limit their physical, intellectual and emotional growth: even one incidence of hunger can impact the life chances of a child. Children who experience hunger are sick more often, are more likely to require hospitalization, and are more likely to experience growth impairment that precludes their reaching their full physical potential.

Currently, many families do not realize that their CalFresh certification qualifies their children for the National School Lunch Program, or how to apply to the program if their child is in need of a school day meal before their CalFresh eligibility is determined. The CalFresh eligibility application can take up to 30 days to process and, in the meantime, a child can go hungry.

AB 608 would require County Human Services agencies to add a list of supplemental food assistance providers to the current list of emergency food providers issued to families. The list would be updated based on information the county receives from emergency and supplemental food assistance providers, cities, school districts, summer lunch providers, the California Department of Education, and the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program).

AB 608 also requires County Human Services agencies to provide an applicant household that has children with information about how to enroll the child in the WIC Program and the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs while their CalFresh application is pending.

These small but distinct changes would support struggling families to better provide for their children, thereby decreasing the likelihood that impacted children fall further behind in their development and studies.

For these reasons I support AB 608 and respectfully request your “aye” vote.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

cc: Senate Human Services Committee (via fax only):

Senator Mike McGuire (Chair) (916) 651-4902

Senator Tom Berryhill (Vice Chair) (916) 651-4908

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[Your Assemblymember]

[Your Senator]